

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Response is in further response to the final Office Action mailed April 9, 2008 and also responds to statements in the Advisory Action mailed July 21, 2008.

Claims 1-9 are the claims currently pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 5 and 8 require detecting conversion-process information containing a time that the conversion section spent to convert the first signal or the second signal, or an amount of data converted. The Advisory Action alleges that the claims do not recite that the time to convert the data is kept track of independently of the total time required. As discussed, claims 1, 5 and 8 require that conversion-process information, which contains the time the conversion section spent to convert the first signal or the second signal, or the amount of data converted, is detected. Further, claims 1, 5 and 8 require that this conversion-process information be then transmitted to the fee-charging system. It would have been readily understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art that detected information that contains or includes time X means that time X is a discernible and recognizable portion of the information.

As discussed, while McConnell et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0015403 discloses monitoring the time it takes to download content, and the download may entail certain types of data conversion processing, McConnell does not disclose or suggest detecting information that contains the time spent for converting a signal. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5 and 8 are not obvious from Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of McConnell.

In view of the forgoing discussion, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the application are respectfully requested. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 11, 2008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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